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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Brian Rademacher, Economic Development Coordinator

**Date:** 27 April 2010

**Re:** Focus Group meetings on Innovation

In an effort to define and understand innovation for the comprehensive plan committee members agreed to work with staff to identify businesses and coordinate small roundtable meetings to learn about innovation in the private sector. This memo briefly updates the committee on the progress made towards holding focus groups on innovation.

Two meetings are currently being planned for early June. The first meeting, with assistance from Tracey Bosman and Grubb & Ellis will focus on innovation in manufacturing/clean-technology in the region. The second meeting, with the assistance from Gary Skoog will have focus on innovation in small to mid-size businesses. Committee members are highly encouraged to suggest one or two companies that fit these categories and can be contacted to participate. Please submit the information by the end of the week.

Meeting format will consist of 8-12 business/industrial professionals familiar with the innovative processes and products. The meetings will also involve two committee members to host and CMAP staff will take notes. A summary report for all meetings will be presented to the committee when the meetings are completed.